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In re the Application of: **Tadayuki KAMEYAMA et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1771

Application Number: **10/522,618**

Examiner: **Michelle Jacobson**

Filed: **January 31, 2005**

Confirmation Number: **6711**

For: **METHOD OF PRODUCING POLARIZING FILM, POLARIZING  
FILM PRODUCED BY THE METHOD AND OPTICAL FILM**

Attorney Docket Number: **052009**

Customer Number: **38834**

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 19, 2007

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Official Action dated August 22, 2007.

In the Action, restriction is required between:

- (I) Claims 1 and 3-18, drawn to a method of producing a polarizing film
- (II) Claims 19-30, drawn to a polarizing film product

Applicant(s) hereby elect(s) the subject matter of **Group I, Claims 1 and 3-18** for prosecution in this application. This election is made **with traverse** as set forth below. It is understood that Applicants' rights to the filing of a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 35 U.S.C. §121 are retained.

Specifically, the assertion in the Office Action that claim 1 is anticipated by JP10-153709 is respectfully traversed.

In support of the traverse, a partial translation of JP10(1998)-153709A claims 1 and 2 and terms used in Fig. 1, is attached to this paper.

The invention as claimed in present claim 1 is based in particular on a new finding that when a polymer film is impregnated in a swelling bath, swelling occurs abruptly within a short period of time, and if the polymer film is brought into contact with a guide roll at that time, wrinkles may be formed in the film, causing the film to have a variation in retardation and further to have a variation in the content of a dichroic substance, as discussed in the introduction to the present specification (see the present specification at page 3, lines 3-12).

Based on this finding, an advantage of the present invention is that it makes it possible to prevent the formation of wrinkles by adjusting a point in time at which the polymer film is brought into contact with the guide roll according to the swollen state of the polymer film. Thus, in order to make it possible to address problems such as those mentioned in the introduction, the inventors of the present invention newly developed the features of the present invention, including the technical feature “within a time up to when swelling reaches a saturation state.” Thanks to these features, the production method according to present claim 1 makes it possible to provide a polarizer that has an excellent property of suppressing display unevenness.

In contrast, Fig. 1 of JP10(1998)-153709A shows two rolls in the swelling bath, one roll at the inlet of the bath and another roll at the outlet of the bath. Judging from Fig. 1, these adjacent rolls are spaced at distances corresponding approximately to a 1:1:1 ratio. In addition, claim 2 of JP10(1998)-153709A recites that “the polarizing film base is impregnated for a length of time in a range of 4 to 6 minutes” (see the partial translation of JP10(1998)-153709A claims 1 and 2 and terms used in Fig. 1, which is attached to this paper).

Response to Restriction Requirement  
Application No. 10/522,618  
Attorney Docket No. 052009

Accordingly, JP10(1998)153709A completely fails to disclose a length of time up to when the film is brought into contact with a first guide roll (first one of the rolls in the swelling bath) is reduced, i.e., that the film is brought into contact with the first guide roll within a time up to when swelling reaches a saturation state, as recited in present claim 1. Therefore, present claim 1 is not anticipated by, and not obvious over, JP10(1998)-153709A.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Partial Translation of  
JP 10(1998)-153709 A

Publication Date : June 9, 1998  
Application No. : 8(1996)-327828  
Filing Date : November 22, 1996  
Applicant : TOKAI RUBBER INDUSTRIES, LTD.  
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Hideki TAKASU  
Hideki SHINOHARA

Title of the Invention : METHOD OF PRODUCING POLARIZING FILM

*(Page 2, column 1, lines 1-14)*

**[CLAIMS]**

**[Claim 1]** A method of producing a polarizing film, comprising the steps of:  
allowing a polarizing film base to swell;  
dyeing the polarizing film base with a dye, which has been subjected to the swelling step;  
stretching the polarizing film base that has been subjected to the dyeing step;  
fixing the dye onto the polarizing film base that has been subjected to the stretching step; and  
drying the polarizing film base that has been subjected to the fixing step,  
wherein in the swelling step, the polarizing film base is allowed to swell using a boric acid aqueous solution having a boric acid concentration of 0.05 to 0.10 wt%.

**[Claim 2]** The method according to claim 1,  
wherein in the swelling step, the solution is at a temperature in a range of 30 to 40°C, and the polarizing film base is impregnated for a length of time in a range of 4 to 6 minutes.